

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3090

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI PINT PINS MILI

SUBJ: NO TO DIALOGUE?

REF: SANTIAGO 3058

1. SUMMARY. NO NEW MILITARY ARMS RAIDS REPORTED, AND FOCUS OF ATTENTION HAS SHIFTED TO ISSUE OF POSSIBLE PDC-GOVT DIALOGUE. PDC PRES AYLWIN TOLD SENATE SPECIAL SESSION ON ARMS CONTROL JULY 11 THAT PDC WILL NOT ENTER CONVERSATIONS WITH GOVT UNTIL WORKERS DISARMED, RECENTLY SEIZED FACTORIES RETURNED, AND THREE AREAS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROMULGATED. PS SEC GEN ALTAMIRANO POLEMICIZED NEXT DAY THAT ANY DIALOGUE WITH PDC LEADERS WOULD BE TREASONOUS AND AFFIRMED PS INTENTION TO PUSH AHEAD WITH OFFENSIVE OF MASSES, EXPRESSING WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT CIVIL WAR IF NEED BY. TAKING RHETORICAL LINE THAT CIVIL WAR NOT A POSSIBILITY, ALLENDE CALLED FOR DIALOGUE WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS. MIR MEETING THIS EVENING. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SPEECH JULY 11 AT EL SALVADOR COPPER MINE TO COMMEMORATE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF COPPER NATIONALIZATION, PRES ALLENDE AGAIN DENIED THERE WILL BE CIVIL WAR IN CHILE. CONTRARY TO OPPOSITION
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HOPES OR FEARS, HE CONTINUED, THERE WILL THEREFORE BE NEITHER A "FASCIST MILITARY DICTATORSHIP" NOR A "DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT," SINCE BOTH GROW OUT OF CIVIL WAR. DEFENDING HIS INITIAL CALL ON JUNE 29 FOR WORKERS TO TAKE TO STREETS TO DEFFEND GOVT AS

THE PRODUCT OF A CONFUSED AND ALARMING SITUATION, HE DENIED GOVT IS CREATING ANY POTENTIAL "PARALLEL ARMY" OUTSIDE OF REGULARLY CONSTITUTED ARMED FORCES. PEOPLE HAVE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE THEMSELVES, HOWEVER; IF OPPOSITION PROVOKES A CONFRONTATION, THEY WIL FIND PEOPLE FIGHTING ALONGSIDE LOYAL ARMED FORCES TO DEFEND CONSTITUTIONAL GOVT. ALLENDE ALSO RESTATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO "DIALOGUE" WITH OPPOSITION ON BASIS OF NO PRIOR CONDITIONS EXCEPT UNDERSTANDING THAT GOVT WILL NOT ABANDON UP PROGRAM. ALLENDE'S REMARKS GENERALLY ECHOED BY MININT CARLOS BRIONES IN SPECIAL SENATE SESSION CALLED EVENING JULY 11 TO DISCUSS OPPOSITION CHARGES RELATING TO ARMING OF UP AND MIR WORKERS.

3. SPEAKING FOR PDC, ITS PESIDENT, PATRICION AYLWIN, TOLD SENATE PARTY WILL NOT DIALOGUE WITH GOVT UNTIL THREE BASIC CONDITIONS MET: DISARMING OF WORKERS, RETURN OF RECENTLY TAKEN FACTORIES AND PASSAGE OF THREE AREAS CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM IN ITS ENTIRETY. "I CANNOT SID DOWN AND NEGOTIATE WITH SOMEONE WHO RECEIVES ME WITH A MACHINE GUN ON THE TABLE," STATED AYLWIN. HE ACCUSED GOVT OF RUINING ECONOMY, SOWING HATRED AND SYSTEMATICALLY DESTROYING NATION'S INSTITUTIONS, RESPECT FOR LAW AND ESTABLISHED TRADITION OF POLITICAL TOLERANCE (CONVIVENCIA). IN UNUSUAL PUBLIC ADMISSION AYLWIN STATED "MAJORITY OF OUR COUNTRYMEN HAVE LOST FAITH IN A DEMOCRATIC SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT CRISIS." HE AFFIRMED, NEVERTHELESS, THAT PDC STILL COMMITTED TO SAVING CHILEAN DEMOCRACY. AYLWIN ALSO CRITICIZED PEOPLE'S POWER GROUPS, ARGUING ONLY THOSE ORGANIZATIONS RECOGNIZED BY CONSTITUTION OR LAW CAN EXERCISE POWER, AND THAT MILITARY, WHICH REMAINS THE GUARANTOR OF SOCIAL PEACE, CAN BE (PRESUMABLY ALONG WITH CARABINEROS) THE ONLY ARMED FORC WITHIN COUNTRY. AYLWIN ALSO REAFFIRMED PDC UNITY. OTHER OPPOSITION SPEAKERS MADE SIMILAR POINTS IN THEIR PRESENTATIONS. OVER OBJECTIONS OF UP MINORITY, SENATE VOTED TO SEND TRANSCRIPT OF DAY'S PROCEEDINGS TO THREE CINCS.

4. AYLWIN'S HARD REMARKS MARSHMALLOW IN COMPARISON TO PS SECGEN ALTAMIRANO'S JULY 12 RADIO ADDRESS. ALTAMIRANO FLATLY STATED ANY DIALOGUE WHATSOEVER WITH PDC LEADERSHIP WOULD BE TREASON TO UP PRINCIPLES THOUGH CONVERSATION AT LEVEL OF MASSES CONFIDENTIAL

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ACCEPTABLE. HE ALSO ARGUED THAT ACTIONS OF CONGRESS, JUDICIARY AND CONTROLLER GENERAL HAD PLACED INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE BOUNDS TO THEIR OWN BOURGEOIS LEGALITY AND THUS ALLENDE NO LONGER OBLIGED TO GOVERN WITH REFERENCE TO THEM. SECGEN DEFENDED RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO SELF-DEFENSE, CRITICIZED OPPOSITION FOR MAKING MILITARY LOOK FOOLISH BY ENCOURAGING RAIDS SUCH AS ONE ON SANTIAGO CEMETARY, CALLED FOR PEOPLE'S TRIBUNAL TO INVESTIGATE JUNE 29 EVENTS, AND TOLD WORKERS TO PREPARE FOR MAJOR OFFENSIVE OF MASSES. (SIMILAR CALL EXPECTED TO BE MADE TONIGHT AT MIR RALLY AT DOWNTOWN THEATER.) LARGE PORTION OF ALTAMIRANO'S REMARKS DIRECTED TOWARDS MILITARY ENLISTED MEN, WHOM HE IDENTIFIED AS CLASS BROTHERS, ARGUING THAT THEY HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO FOLLOW ORDERS OF ANY OFFICER WHO SEEKS TO LEAD THEM INTO ADVENTERISTIC COUP ATTEMPTS.

ALTAMIRANO ATTACKED HOME-GROWN REACTIONARIES AND U.S. IMPERIALISM FOR TRYING TO OVERTHROW GOVT (AND INCIDENTALLY GOVTS OF PERU AND ARGENTINA AS WELL). HE WARNED THAT ALTHOUGH SOCIALISTS DO NOT WANT CIVIL WAR, THEY ARE PREPARED TO FIGHT AND WILL "BURN DOWN AND BLOW UP THIS COUNTRY FROM ARICA TO MAGALLANES IF NECESSARY."

5. CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES VOTED THREE RESOLUTIONS EVENING JULY 11. FIRST INFORMED ALLENDE THAT HE IS PUTTING HIMSELF IN POSITION OF OPEN ILLEGALITY, BRINGING NATION TO BRINK OF ARMED CONFLICT, AND DEMANDED THAT HE ALLOW MILITARY TO ENFORCE ARMS CONTROL LAW. SECONDE RESOLUTION REPEATED DESIRE FOR LAW'S ENFORCEMENT AND WAS ADDRESSED DIRECTLY TO ARMED FORCES. THIRD DEMANDED MININTERIOR INVESTIGAE SEIZURE OF ENDESA ELECTRICAL PLANT AND DISLOCATION OF ITS OCCUPIERS.

6. ACCORDING TO PRESS, MILITARY HAVE ENGAGED IN NO ARMS RAIDS SINCE THOSE REPORTED REFTEL. ARMY JULY 11 ISSUED OFFICIAL VERSION OF JUNE 29 ATTEMPTED COUP AND ITS IMMEDIATE ANTECEDENTS. STATEMENT IS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY CONFINED TO DETAILED RECITATION OF MILITARY MOVEMENTS AND CONTAINS LITTLE NEW INFORMATION. IT ALLEGES ORIGINAL COUP PLOT, DISCOVERED BY ARMY JUNE 26, DID INVOLVE PATRIA Y LIBERTAD AND WAS SET TO GO JUNE 27. STATEMENT MAKES NO REFERENCE TO INVOLVEMENT OF OTHER CIVILIANS OR MILITARY OFFICERS IN COUP PLOT OR ACTUAL ATTEMPT, NO REFERENCE TO SNIPERS ON JUNE 29, AND NO REFERENCE TO POLITICAL CONTEXT SURROUNDING THESE EVENTS. STATEMENT DOES UNDERLINE PRATS' ROLE IN FORCING SURRENDER OF VARIOUS REBEL TANKS AND IMPLICITLY DEFENDS MANNER IN WHICH LOYAL TACNA REGIMENT COMMANDER COL RAMIREZ TOOK CONTROL OF SOUPER'S CONFIDENTIAL

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HEADQUARTERS, AN ACT WHICH SOME OPPOSITION SECTORS AND PN'S TRIBUNA AS WELL AS SOME MILITARY OFFICERS IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS HAS CRITICIZED AS EXCESSIVELY BRUTAL. MILITARY INVESTIGATION OF EVENTS CONTINUES, MEANWHILE. TO DATE SEVEN MILITARY (LTCOL SOUPER, CAPT ROCHA, AND FIVE LIEUTENANTS) AND ONE CIVILIAN (SOUPER'S NEPHEW WHO HAS RECEIVED GOC SAFE CONDUCT TO LEAVE COLOMBIAN EMBASSY) HAVE BEEN CHARGED (DECLARADO REO). SPECIAL MILITARY PROSECUTOR COL SAAVEDRA ANNOUNCED INVESTIGATION WOULD BE SO THOROUGH IT MIGHT EVEN RUN TO MORE TESTIMONY THAN THAT TAKEN IN SCHNEIDER ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION, WHICH HE ALSO CONDUCTED. ON ANOTHER FRONT GOVT HAS INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO GRANT IMMEDIATE BONUS TO EVERY MILITARY MAN.

7. COMMENT. ALTAMIRANO'S REMARKS PROBABLY REFLECT CONTINUED PS FEAR THAT MILITARY AND OPPOSITION ELEMENTS CONTEMPLATING FURTHER GOLPE ATTEMPTS AND CONSTITUTE EXPRESSION PS RESOLVE TO FIGHT IF NECESSARY. PS, MIR AND PERHAPS OTHER UP SEGMENTS ALSO CONCEIVABLY CONCERNED THAT ALLENDE'S DIALOGUE CALL INDICATES CERTAIN WAFFLING ON HIS PART. PS AND PDC STATEMENTS GIVE NO CONFORM TO THOSE WHO VIEW POLITICAL COMPROMISE AS BEST SOLUTION TO CURRENT CRISIS.

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